

NOAA Marine Debris Prevention and Removal

Promoting Healthy Marine Habitat

The Problem

Coastal communities spend millions of dollars removing persistent marine debris from their beaches. U.S. ports and harbors are in a constant battle to keep the nation's waterways free of hazardous debris which slows maritime commerce. Marine debris destroys essential fish habitat and can directly harm many important marine species by entrapping or killing them.

NOAA's Marine Debris Grant Initiative

In fiscal year 2007, the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) grant initiative will continue to address the adverse impacts of marine debris and build community support for debris prevention. This initiative will provide funding for locally-driven marine debris prevention and removal projects. These community-based projects will benefit coastal habitat such as wetlands and coral reefs, along with waterways, fisheries, and marine mammals and sea turtles. Projects funded through the MDP grants initiative should have strong on-the-ground components to remove marine debris and derelict fishing gear as well as strong community education components to help prevent future marine debris accumulation.

How to Apply

Proposals for marine debris removal and prevention projects are accepted and competitively



Volunteers remove derelict crab traps from the Gulf of Mexico

Program Details

Typical Award Size: \$15,000 to \$150,000

Match: 1:1 match is encouraged

Funding Duration: Up to 18 months

Eligibility: Academic institutions, commercial organizations, non-profits, and state, local and tribal governments

Due Date: October 30, 2006

awarded by NOAA's MDP. Awards will typically range from \$15,000 - \$150,000; NOAA will not accept proposals for under \$15,000 or more than \$250,000.

Organizations whose projects have the potential to benefit living marine resources are eligible to apply. More information on this funding opportunity can be found at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding_opportunities/funding.html or on www.grants.gov by searching the Federal Funding Opportunity number NMFS-HCPO-2007-2000731.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Marine debris removal:

- Detection and removal of derelict fishing gear, such as abandoned crab pots and fish nets, monofilament line, or “casitas” (lobster aggregating devices).
- Removal of persistent debris, including abandoned vessels and/or large material, from coastal habitats .
- Removal of debris from marine, estuarine or beach environments resulting from hurricanes or other natural disasters.
- Detection and removal of derelict pilings and bulkheads that diminish habitat quality.

Marine debris prevention:

- Prevention activities related to reception facilities at marinas and fishing ports including recycling initiatives for monofilament fishing line and other types of fishing gear or debris.
- The development of debris reduction incentives for prevention, removal, and safe disposal of plastics and derelict fishing gear.
- Outreach/education focused projects.

WHAT IS MARINE DEBRIS?

Marine debris is any discarded, disposed of, or abandoned, manufactured or man-made solid material that enters the coastal or marine environment. It may enter directly when it is lost or dumped from a ship or indirectly when debris washes out to sea via rivers, streams, and storm drains.



Derelict net cut from the ocean bottom by trained divers in Puget Sound, Washington



Volunteer removes waste tire from Tampa Bay, Florida



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